

**EPA's Information Gathering Authority
Under Section 114 of the Clean Air Act**

Under Section 114 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 7414), Congress has given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency broad authority to secure information needed "for the purpose of (i) developing or assisting in the development of any implementation plan under Section 110 or 111(d), any standard of performance under Section 111, or any emission standard under Section 112, (ii) determining whether any person is in violation of any such standard of any requirement of such a plan, or (iii) carrying out any provision of this Act." Amount other things, Section 114 authorizes EPA to make inspections, conduct tests, examine records, and require owners or operators of emission sources to submit information reasonably required for the purpose of developing such standards. In addition, the EPA Office of General Counsel has interpreted Section 114 to include authority to photograph or require submission of photographs of pertinent equipment, emissions, or both.

Under Section 114, EPA is empowered to obtain information described by that section even if you consider it to be confidential. You may, however, request that EPA treat such information as confidential. Information obtained under Section 114 and covered by such a request will ordinarily be released to the public only if EPA determines that the information is not entitled to confidential treatment.¹ Procedures to be used for making confidentiality determinations, substantive criteria to be used in such determinations, and special rules governing information obtained under Section 114 are set forth in 40 CFR Part 2 published in the Federal Register on September 1, 1976 (40 FR 36902).

Pursuant to § 2.204(a) of EPA's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulation, in the event a request is received, or it is determined that a request is likely to be received, or EPA desires to determine whether business information in its possession is entitled to confidential treatment even though no request for release of the information has been received, please be advised that EPA will seek, at that time, the following information to support your claim as required by § 2.204(e)(4) of EPA's FOIA regulations:

1. Measures taken by your company to guard against undesired disclosure of the information to others;
2. The extent to which the information has been disclosed to others, and the precautions taken in connection therewith;
3. Pertinent confidentiality determinations, if any, by EPA or other Federal agencies, and a copy of any such determinations, or reference to it, if available; and
4. Whether your company asserts that disclosure of the information would be likely to result in substantial harmful effects on the business' competitive position, and if so, what those harmful effects would be, why they should be viewed as substantial, and an explanation of the causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effects.¹

¹Section 114 requires public availability of all emission data and authorizes disclosure of confidential information in certain circumstances. See 40 FR 36902 - 36912 (September 1, 1976).